

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (Currently Amended). A method for treating loss of near vision in a patient comprising:

ablating a peripheral zone in the cornea to a high refractive power to provide corrected near vision for the patient; and

changing the refractive power of a central zone of the cornea disposed concentrically within said peripheral zone to revert said refractive power to its value before the formation of said peripheral zone.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein said peripheral zone is exceeds about 5.5mm.

3 (Original). The method of claim 2 wherein said peripheral zone has a diameter of less than about 10mm.

4 (Currently Cancelled).

5 (Currently Cancelled).

6 (Currently Cancelled).

7 (Currently Cancelled).

Claims 8-16 (Previously Canceled)

17 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for treating a patient's eye for near vision deficiency comprising:

a laser beam generator;

an optical network selectively delivering a laser beam from said laser beam generator to the eye of the patient; and

a controller coupled to said optical network and said laser beam generator to [ablate] provide a first ablation at a peripheral portion of the cornea to increase the dioptic power of said peripheral portion for correcting the eye for the near vision deficiency by shaping said peripheral zone of the cornea to a high refractive power within an area of between 5.5 and 10 mm in diameter, and said controller further being coupled to said optical network to thereafter provide a second ablation at a central portion of the cornea to restore said central zone to its condition prior to said peripheral ablation.

18 (Currently Cancelled).

19 (Currently Cancelled).

20 (Currently Cancelled).

21 (Currently Cancelled).

22 (Currently Cancelled).